



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAY 24 2007

Coleen Sullins, Director  
Division of Water Quality  
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Dear Ms. Sullins:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the revisions to *15A NCAC 2B Surface Water and Wetlands Standards, Section .0300 Assignment of Stream Classification* which were submitted to the EPA for review by letter, dated December 21, 2006, and received on December 26, 2006. The following segments were reclassified:

- *.0309 Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin; Uwharrie River*, adopted by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (NC EMC) on May 11, 2006; effective July 1, 2006.
- *.0309 Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin; Yadkin River*, adopted by the NC EMC on July 13, 2006; effective September 1, 2006.

All revisions were certified by the North Carolina Attorney General by letter, dated December 18, 2006, as duly adopted pursuant to State law. In accordance with 40 CFR Section 131.21(c), new and revised State and Tribal water quality standards are not effective for Clean Water Act (CWA) purposes until approved by EPA. EPA hereby approves these revisions under the CWA as described below. A list of the reclassified waterbodies is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

Uwharrie River

On May 11, 2006, the NC EMC adopted a revision to the use designation of one segment in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin from Class C (fresh waters protected for secondary recreation, fishing, aquatic life, including propagation and survival, and wildlife) to Class B (freshwaters protected for primary recreation which includes swimming on a frequent or organized basis and all Class C uses). Two additional segments had the Class B designation added to the original designation of WS IV (source of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food-processing purposes for those users where a more protective WS-I, WS-II, or WS-III classification is not feasible, and any other best usage specified for Class C waters) and WS IV Critical Area (CA). The CA designation is used in the area adjacent to a water supply intake or reservoir where risk associated with pollution is greatest. One segment was not modified and

retained the C use classification but, based on the above modifications, simply required a change to its locational description to split it off from the changing segments and is therefore included in this package.

The change to or the addition of the Class B designation to the three segments will maintain the water quality necessary to be used for primary recreation purposes as stated in 15A NCAC 2B .0106 (Considerations/Assigning Classifications for Primary Recreation) and 15A NCAC 2B .0219 (Fresh Surface Water Quality Standards for Class B Waters) and 15A NCAC 2H .0124 (Reliability) and will meet all of the requirements for best usage specified for Class C waters under 15A NCAC 2B .0211. Reclassification of these waters to Class B is consistent with the State's criteria for designation of uses and should ensure that the Class B use designation for primary recreation is maintained for these stream segments.

### Yadkin River

On July 13, 2006, the NC EMC adopted a revision to the use designation of one segment in the Yadkin River Basin from Class C (fresh waters protected for secondary recreation, fishing, aquatic life, including propagation and survival, and wildlife) to the WS IV category (source of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food-processing purposes for those users where a more protective WS-I, WS-II, or WS-III classification is not feasible, and any other best usage specified for Class C waters). The CA designation was also added indicating that the area is adjacent to a water supply intake or reservoir where risk associated with pollution is greatest, typically the water 0.5 miles upstream of the intake. One segment retained the Class C use but based on the above modifications simply required a change to its locational description in order to split it off of the segment being modified and is therefore included here. The effective date of the modification was September 1, 2006.

This revision retains all aquatic life uses and supporting water quality criteria of the State's Class C designation, which also apply to Class WS IV CA waters. Therefore, since the water quality criteria and uses of the State's Class C designation provide for protection of the CWA Section 101(a)(2) uses (fishable/swimmable), this revision is consistent with the goals of Section 101(a) of the CWA and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR Part 131.

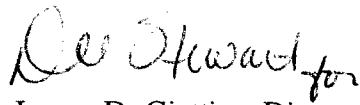
### Summary

EPA has determined that the revisions are consistent with the federal water quality standards regulations at 40 CFR Part 131 and the CWA. In accordance with Section 303(c) of the CWA and 40 CFR Part 131, EPA is approving these revisions. In accordance with 40 CFR 131.21(c), the revised State water body primary and supplemental classifications are now considered effective for CWA purposes.

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I would like to commend you and your staff for your continued efforts in refining use classifications statewide. North Carolina remains a Regional leader in the practice of upgrading water bodies to the highest attainable use. These designations are vital in continuing to maintain and protect ambient water quality and associated water uses. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (404) 562-9470, or have your staff contact Lisa Perras Gordon at (404) 562-9317.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. D. Giattina".

James D. Giattina, Director  
Water Management Division

Enclosure

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## Enclosure 1: Use Classification Modification

### Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin

<u>Name of Stream</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Existing Class</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Class</u>		
Uwharrie River	From Randolph County SR 1314 to Randolph County 1174 ( <i>new description</i> )	C	C
Uwharrie River	From Randolph County SR 1174 to a point B 1.3 miles Upstream of mouth of Barnes Creek	C	B
Uwharrie River	From a point 1.3 miles Upstream of the mouth of Barnes Creek to mouth of Dutchman's Creek.	WS-IV	WS-IV & B
Uwharrie River CA	From mouth of Dutchman's Creek to Lake Tillery, Pee Dee River	WS-IV & CA	WS-IVB &

<u>Name of Stream</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Existing Class</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	<u>Class</u>		
Yadkin River	From a point 0.6 miles Upstream of Town of Jonesville water supply Intake (and beginning 0.9 Miles upstream of Elkin Creek) to the Town of Elkin Water supply intake located Directly above the mouth of Elkin Creek.	C	WS-IV CA
Yadkin River	From the Town of Elkin Water Supply intake (directly Above the mouth of Elkin Creek) to a point 0.3 miles upstream of Ararat River. ( <i>new description</i> )	C	C